

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.       A method of managing the distribution of facsimile messages to a  
2 recipient, comprising:  
3           receiving a message from a transmitting facsimile via a telephone network, the  
4 message comprising receiving fax server telephone number appended with a recipient  
5 direct dial telephone number;  
6           automatically parsing the message to extract the recipient direct dial telephone  
7 number from the message;  
8           receiving a fax payload from the transmitting facsimile in the fax server;  
9           determining an e-mail address and at least one recipient fax preference from  
10 the direct dial telephone number;  
11           processing the fax payload according to the recipient fax preference; and  
12           directing the processed fax message according to the recipient fax preference.

1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein the step of processing the fax payload  
2 in the fax server according to the recipient fax preference comprises the steps of:  
3           reading a grayscale transform from a memory accessible to the fax server; and  
4           applying the grayscale transform to the fax payload.

1           3.       The method of claim 1, wherein the step of automatically parsing the  
2 message to extract the recipient direct dial telephone number from the message is  
3 performed by a fax card.

1           4.       The method of claim 1, wherein the step of automatically parsing the  
2 message to extract the recipient direct dial telephone number from the message is  
3 performed by a processor responding to instructions to extract the recipient direct dial  
4 telephone number from the message.

1           5.       The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining an e-mail  
2 address and at least one recipient fax preference from the direct dial telephone number  
3 comprises the steps of :  
4           calling an application program interface in the fax server to an application  
5 managing recipient information comprising the e-mail address and the direct dial  
6 telephone number of the recipient; and  
7           searching the recipient information for the e-mail address corresponding to the  
8 direct dial telephone number.

1           6.       The method of claim 1, the message further comprises a transmitting  
2 facsimile identification and wherein the fax preference describes an identification of a  
3 junk fax source, and the step of processing the converted fax message according to the  
4 recipient fax preferences comprises the step of deleting the received fax payload if the  
5 transmitting facsimile identification corresponds to the identification of the junk fax  
6 source.

1           7.       The method of claim 1, wherein the fax preference describes a  
2 preferred portable document format, and the step of processing the fax payload in the  
3 fax server comprises the step of converting the fax payload to the preferred portable  
4 document format.

1           8.       The method of claim 1, wherein the fax preference describes  
2 forwarding fax information, and the method further comprises the step of forwarding  
3 the fax message according to the forwarding fax information.

1           9.       The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting a  
2 confirming message to the transmitting facsimile.

1           10.      The method of claim 9, wherein the confirming message comprises a  
2 portion of the fax payload.

1           12.     The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for processing the fax  
2     payload in the fax server according to the recipient fax preference comprises:  
3           means for reading a grayscale transform from a memory accessible to the fax  
4     server; and  
5           means for applying the grayscale transform to the fax payload.

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1           14.    The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for automatically  
2 parsing the message to extract the recipient direct dial telephone number comprises a  
3 processor responding to instructions to extract the recipient direct dial telephone  
4 number from the message.

1           15.    The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for determining an e-  
2 mail address and at least one recipient fax preference from the direct dial telephone  
3 number comprises:

4               means for calling an application program interface in the fax server to an  
5 application managing recipient information comprising the e-mail address and the  
6 direct dial telephone number of the recipient; and

7               means for searching the recipient information for the e-mail address  
8 corresponding to the direct dial telephone number.

1           16.    The apparatus of claim 11, the message further comprises a  
2 transmitting facsimile identification and wherein the fax preference describes an  
3 identification of a junk fax source, and the means for processing the converted fax  
4 message according to the recipient fax preferences comprises means for deleting the  
5 received fax payload if the transmitting facsimile identification corresponds to the  
6 identification of the junk fax source.

1           17.    The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the fax preference describes a  
2 preferred portable document format, and the means for processing the fax payload in  
3 the fax server comprises means for converting the fax payload to the preferred  
4 portable document format.

1           18.    The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the fax preference describes  
2 forwarding fax information, and the apparatus further comprises means for  
3 forwarding the fax message according to the forwarding fax information.

1           19.     The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for transmitting a  
2     confirming message to the transmitting facsimile.

1           20.     The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the confirming message comprises  
2     a portion of the fax payload.

1           21.     A program storage device, readable by a computer, tangibly embodying  
2     at least one program of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps  
3     of managing the distribution of facsimile messages to a recipient, the method steps  
4     comprising the steps of:

5                 receiving a message from a transmitting facsimile via a telephone network, the  
6     message comprising receiving fax server telephone number appended with a recipient  
7     direct dial telephone number;

8                 automatically parsing the message to extract the recipient direct dial telephone  
9     number from the message;

10                receiving a fax payload from the transmitting facsimile in the fax server;

11                determining an e-mail address and at least one recipient fax preference from  
12     the direct dial telephone number;

13                processing the fax payload according to the recipient fax preference; and

14                directing the processed fax message according to the recipient fax preference.

1           22.     The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the method step of  
2     processing the fax payload in the fax server according to the recipient fax preference  
3     comprises the method steps of:

4                 reading a grayscale transform from a memory accessible to the fax server; and

5                 applying the grayscale transform to the fax payload.

1           23.     The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the method step of  
2     automatically parsing the message to extract the recipient direct dial telephone  
3     number from the message is performed by a fax card.

1           24.     The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the method step of  
2     determining an e-mail address and at least one recipient fax preference from the direct  
3     dial telephone number comprises the method steps of :  
4           calling an application program interface in the fax server to an application  
5     managing recipient information comprising the e-mail address and the direct dial  
6     telephone number of the recipient; and  
7           searching the recipient information for the e-mail address corresponding to the  
8     direct dial telephone number.

1           25.     The program storage device of claim 21, the message further  
2     comprises a transmitting facsimile identification and wherein the fax preference  
3     describes an identification of a junk fax source, and the method step of processing the  
4     converted fax message according to the recipient fax preferences comprises the  
5     method step of deleting the received fax payload if the transmitting facsimile  
6     identification corresponds to the identification of the junk fax source.

1           26.     The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the fax preference  
2     describes a preferred portable document format, and the method step of processing the  
3     fax payload in the fax server comprises the method step of converting the fax payload  
4     to the preferred portable document format.

1           27.     The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the fax preference  
2     describes forwarding fax information, and the method steps further comprises the  
3     method step of forwarding the fax message according to the forwarding fax  
4     information.

1           28.     The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the method steps  
2     further comprising the method step of transmitting a confirming message to the  
3     transmitting facsimile.

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